

21. A CURIOUS DEATH OF A SNAKE

On 29-4-1947, the senior author found a dead *Tropidonotus piscator* (Schn.)—popularly known in Oriya as 'Pani Dhanda'—in his pond in the heart of Cuttack. On examining for the cause of death it was found that the snake had in its mouth cavity an entire fish *Callichorous pabda* (Day). The fish specimen measured 8.11 inches in length and 3.7 inches in its greatest circumference. The snake was an adult measuring 3 feet 1.6 inches in total length. The species is common in our ponds and subsists on fishes. It is probable that the pectoral spines of the fish stuck in the snake's mouth and so it could not be swallowed, neither could it be rejected owing to the nature of curved teeth characteristic of the Ophidians.

We are thankful to Sri S. R. Upadhyay of our laboratory for the determination of the fish and to Prof. D. Mukerji of the Department of Zoology, University College of Science, Calcutta University for kindly going through the manuscript.

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22. EGG-LAYING BY A PYTHON IN CAPTIVITY

Your *Journal*, December 1947, published a note of mine on the breeding of the Indian Python (*Python molurus*).

Details up to date, 21st May 1951 are as follows:—

On 4 April 1938 this python, a pet of mine, mated with a small male, and laid eggs on 4 June 1938. After 4 April 1938 no male pet python has ever been near the cage.

Date	Number of eggs laid	Period of captivity
4 June 1938	(2 months after mating)	
9 June 1947	16	9 years
6 June 1948	20	10 "
5 June 1949	16	11 "
and 21 May 1951	12	13 "

These last eggs are: 7 of normal size $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches round the centre.
10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " the ends.
5 small, the size of a goose egg.

LOYOLA COLLEGE,
MADRAS,
21st May, 1951

C. LEIGH, S.J.

23. A RECORD OF THE COMMON MEMBRACID, *OTINOTUS ONERATUS* WALK. (HOMOPTERA: RHYNCHOTA) FROM THE CITY OF PATNA (BIHAR)

This is an extension of the distribution of the common membracid *Otinotus oneratus* Walk, in Bihar and an addition to the list of its hostplants. It was only reported from Ranchi in Bihar (Distant, W. L. 1907. 'Fauna of British India. Rhynchota', 4: 40-41).